

## NUMBER 3381.

## MANY DUPES BITTEN

## Patent Brokers Who Skinned Inventors Arrested

**FOR USING MAILS TO DEFRAUD**

**The Swindlers Caught Each One For  
\$40, and Have Realized Nearly  
\$20,000 in a Few Years.**

BROOKLYN, ILL., Jan. 4.—Fustellins Inspector W. D. G. Mercer has arrested B. H. Willis, manager and proprietor of the Iowa State Patent Investment company, and William A. Bell, manager of Bell & Co., patent brokers and solicitors this afternoon charged with using the mails to defraud. The arrest has caused the biggest kind of a sensation, as both men have been for years transacting a big business and stood high in the community. Inspector Mercer, who has been at work on the case for over a year, left for Kankakee this evening with the prisoners. They will be arraigned before the United States commissioner tomorrow. Investigation into the work of the company by the inspector disclosed the biggest kind of a swindle ever un-

written in the state. The general basis of the concern is to watch the daily papers and get a list of patents granted. The victim is informed he can trade his right for a farm, but it would cost him to look up the title. The money is sent and then in due time the victim is advised not to make the trade as the land is heavily incumbered. Inspector Marcer has a list of 300 victims all over the west, half of whom stand ready to prosecute. Those that informed say the schemers have made from \$25,000 to \$25,000 out of the scheme in the past few years.

**CORPORATIONS HUSTLING.**  
**Trouble Ahead for Some Belated Foreign Ones.**  
LANSING, Mich., Jan. 4.—Those foreign corporations which neglected to comply with the new state law requiring them

to pay fees amounting to \$1 a million upon their capital stock before January 1 are now falling over themselves in their anxiety to square themselves. One of the last corporations to comply with the law was the Brunswick-Cale, Calender company of Chicago, which paid \$750 on a capital of \$1,500,000. It is probable that the secretary of state will not be severe with these apparent do-

inquests, but it is evident that a good deal of litigation will result, as the law holds all contracts made by companies failing to comply with the law at the proper time void and of no effect.

**Nixon Given Eight Years.**

PLANT, Mich., Jan. 4.—Judge Wimmer today sentenced Robert Nixon to the state house of correction and reformatory at Ionia for eight years. Nixon yesterday pleaded guilty to a charge of manslaughter. He was implicated with John Elder in the saloon row which caused the death of Charles London. This was the first sentence made by the new

**Hotel Burned.**

TAWAN CITY, Mich., Jan. 4.—The Strong house at East Tawan, with fixtures, was burned this morning. The building was rebuilt last spring, and was owned by A. G. Van Weay of this village and occupied by P. Bouvette. It was valued at about \$4,000, and is

**Two Justices Bounced.**  
LANSING, Mich., Jan. 4.—Governor Rich today formally bounced John Mc

Coy of Springwells township, Wayne county, in accordance with Commissioner Greenstine's report. The governor also removed William Hyland, a justice in Marion township, Osceola county. Hyland was recently convicted of being

**No One Was Blamed.**  
ANN ARBOR, Mich., Jan. 4.—The coroner's jury in the case of Richard Siplos

one of the victims of the sewer disaster of Sunday, brought in a verdict exonerating the engineer and all in charge of the work from blame. The testimony indicated that all precautions for safety had been taken.

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**Elder Coryell Dead.**  
JONESVILLE, Mich., Jan. 4.—Elder

Charles E. Coryell, who has been identified with the educational interests of this community for thirty years, holding various important offices, died yesterday. He is the father of Prof. R. J. Coryell of the Agricultural college.

**His Wound Was Fatal.**  
DETROIT, Mich., Jan. 4.—Christophe

Hirschbuck, who was shot in the back by an unknown person on Gratiot avenue during the universal firing of guns New Year's eve, died at Grace hospital just after midnight last night from the effects of the wound.

**Postoffice Robbed.**  
NORTH BRANCH, Mich., Jan. 4.—The postoffice was burglarized last night to the extent of a dollar or two in change. A registered letter of unknown value and a lot of money order advices, which are valuable only to the postmaster, were also taken.

COLEMAN, Mich., Jan. 4.—Mrs. Fremont Neil shot herself through the stomach last night during a fit of insanity. She is about 30 years of age, and has taught school in this vicinity several years.

**Have Aided 1,800 Persons.**  
IRON MOUNTAIN, Mich., Jan. 4.—The number of destitute persons who have been assisted in this city up to date is about 1,800, practically all of whom

**Struck by a Falling Tree.**  
Tustin, Mich., Jan. 9.—Charles Blawie, a young farmer, was struck by a falling tree last night. His arm was broken in several places and he was severely injured internally. He cannot walk.

**Fire at Muskegon.**

MUSKOGEE, Mich., Jan. 4.—Fires started early this morning in the boiler room of the Muskogee cracker factory but was confined to the basement, as the damage will not exceed \$1,000, fully insured.

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